certification mechanism. The duration of the project is three years. During the project period an attempt will be made to identify and assess the demand for organic tea in the export markets and develop marketing strategy including a relevant promotion package for this market. The total estimated cost of the project is US$1.425m of which the CFC is expected to provide US$0.329m by way of loan and US$0.971m as grant in aid. The balance would be contributed by the Tea Board and tea industry. Besides, a National programme for organic production and preparation of necessary guidelines thereon has also been finalised.

New industries in NER

170. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 807 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 2000 and state:

(a) the action taken for inclusion of existing industries and industries to be established outside the specified areas, under the purview of New Industrial Policy for the North-East;

(b) the revised notification made in this regard; and

(c) the details of investment made in the NER after the notification indicating the reasons of low response?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Request for amendment of the New Industrial Policy and other concessions in the North-Eastern Region, dated 24.12.1997 is under examination.

(c) Capital investment amounting to Rs. 249.09 crores has been made in the North-Eastern Region as on 31.3.2001. The reasons for low investment are lack of industrial infrastructure, poor road connectivity and geographical bottlenecks in the region.

New Industrial Units in Meghalaya

171. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of applications/proposal received from the foreign companies by Government for establishment of industrial units in Meghalaya under new economic reforms and the details of proposals sanctioned during the last three years out of it till-date;

(b) the details of amount involved in these proposals for setting up of new industrial units in the State; and

(c) what are their projected employment potentials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Under the new economic reforms, till September 2001, three proposals involving Foreign Direct Investment of Rs. 5077.82 lakh have been approved for Meghalaya, including two proposals involving an investment of Rs. 4477.82 lakh approved during the last three years, *i.e.*, from January, 1998 to September, 2001.

The details of approvals are published in the monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion, which is widely circulated to various establishments, including the Parliament Library. The information is also posted in SIA Website (http://www.nic.in/indmin).

(c) The data regarding employment generation is not centrally maintained.

Decline in industrial production

172. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the growth in the Index of Industrial Production during the first six months of the current year;

(b) how it compares with growth during the corresponding period of last year;

(c) the reasons for decline in industrial production; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Index of Industrial Production registered a growth rate of 2.3% during April-September, 2001-02 as against 5.7% registered during 2000-01.

(c) The main reasons for decline in industrial production are as under:

Comparatively lower agricultural production in the past two years resulting in lower aggregate demand and reduced consumption.